

# The Rtl Project

A Community of Practice for Rhode Island's  
Secondary Schools

# What is a Community of Practice?



# Why create a community of practice?

Research says they facilitate:

- A blame-free culture
- Ability to learn from all experiences (good and bad)
- Ability to make use of other members' knowledge and resources
- Encouragement to talk about learning (and teaching)
- Location and use of relevant knowledge from outside the community

# Isn't a community of practice the same as a professional learning community (PLC)?

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Similar in philosophy and methods, BUT

- **community of practice** = main concern is the **practice of professionals**
- **a learning community** = main concern is learning and the **advancement of learners**

# To pick up a practice and make it their own, educators need to...

| LEARN   | See HOW   | DO   |
|---|---|--|
| Know Why<br>Know What   | Know How to do it   | Roles and responsibilities   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Research Base</li><li>•Experience of Practice</li><li>•Expert Interviews</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•District and Schools that are DOING IT</li><li>•Sample Materials</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Ideas for Action by different people</li><li>•Tools</li><li>•Planning Templates</li></ul> |

WE WILL LEARN TO “PRACTICE WHAT WE PREACH” BY BECOMING BETTER EDUCATORS OURSELVES

(Doing What Works  
Clearinghouse 2011)

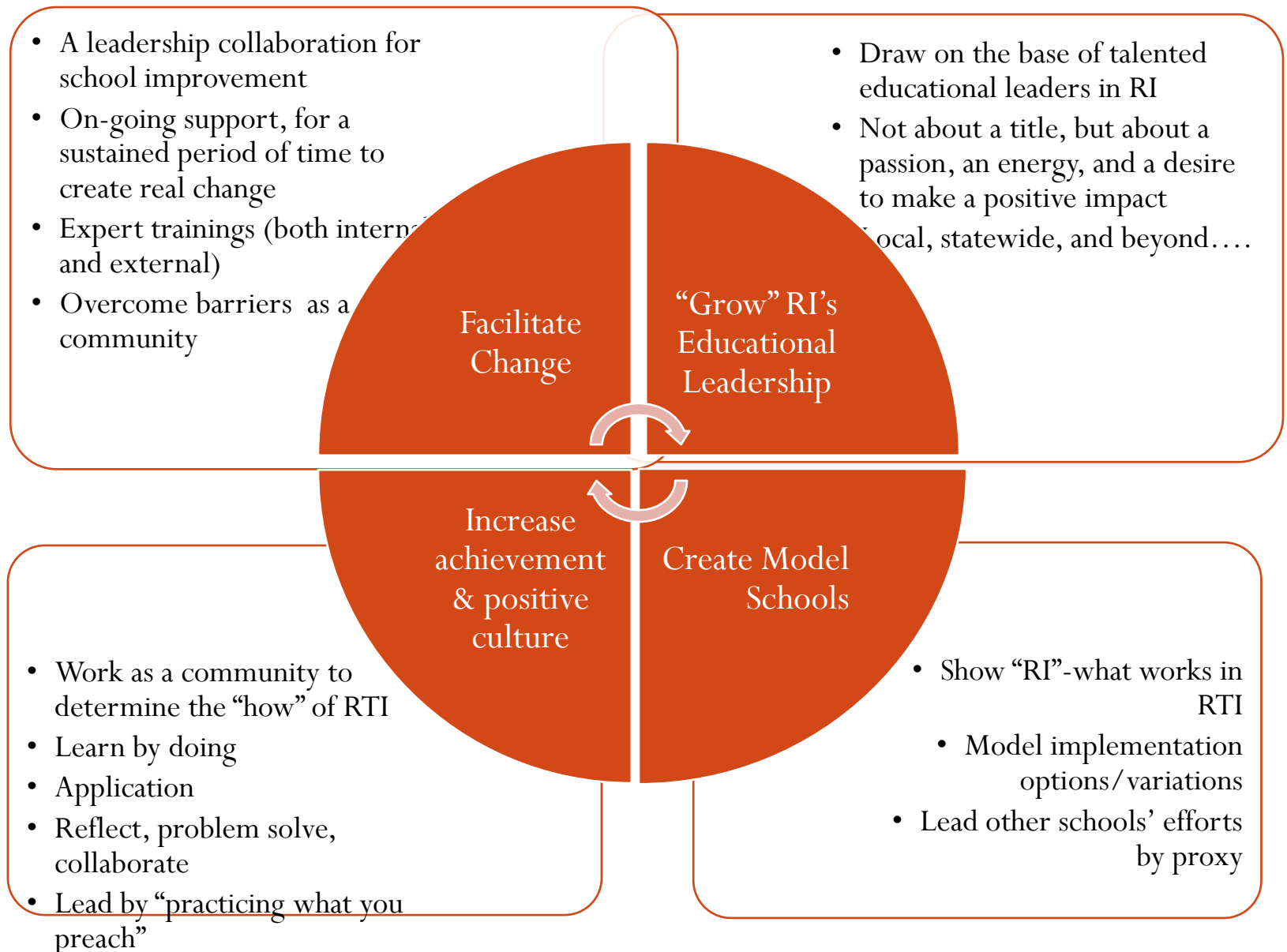
For every **ONE** day of professional development,

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there needs to be **SEVEN**  
days of implementation for  
REAL change

(Doing What Works  
Clearinghouse 2011)

# WHY?? A MISSION...



# The FACTS...

WHO?

- Districts apply for one selected school site
- The site must have a TEAM of motivated secondary leaders and their teacher leaders (teams of 4)
- Team MUST include one district level administrator, one school building administrator, and a general education teacher leader
- In a position to enact change
- Desire to lead change in their school AND in the state (by model)



# The FACTS...

WHAT?

- A leadership collaboration for school improvement:
  - Six days out of building
  - With practical application/implementation
  - At least 1 presentation and hosting
  - Communicating and sharing resources within the community and within the state as RtI leadership

# Participant Expectations

- Commitment to the vision of improving schools and The RTI Project
- Attend all meetings, from beginning to end; make a commitment
- One presentation on a best practice from your school site following a training template, with that meeting hosted at your site
- Implementation of what is learned (as much as can be done within current structures) and share out/reflect at each follow-up meeting
- Be an active participant: at the meetings, with your presentation, with follow through implementation, with the online forums...
- **THIS COMMUNITY WILL BE WHAT YOU (THE MEMBERS) MAKE IT!!**

# THE FACTS...

## WHERE?

- Location alternates at participating school sites around the state

## WHEN?

- 2011-2012 School year (minimally)
- Elective continuation

# THE FACTS...

What's  
in it for  
you??

- To be “cutting edge” in RI’s secondary RtI development
- Technical Assistance/consultation services
- Being part of a network of schools enacting a similar type of change and encountering similar obstacles
- Having people to help problem solve/share ideas
- Possible Professional Development hours
- Resource materials and more!

# TWO TYPES OF LEARNING

## Internal “Experts”

“Expert” in your school and its journey

Share as we grow

Present on specific implementation topics to help give others practical ideas

Learn research based PD methods, practice with us, and bring back to your school site

## External “Experts”

Professional Organization Partnerships

Higher Education Partnerships

Research based tools

Topics/Guest Presenters selected by your collective needs

# How do we apply??

- Visit RIDE's website for more information
  - [http://www.ride.ri.gov/Special\\_Populations/Programs\\_Services/Learning\\_Disabilities\\_and\\_Response\\_to\\_Intervention\\_%28RTI%29.aspx](http://www.ride.ri.gov/Special_Populations/Programs_Services/Learning_Disabilities_and_Response_to_Intervention_%28RTI%29.aspx)
  - Scroll down to **Specific Learning Disability Criteria Waiver Information** and find the sub-title **Secondary**
- View the informational Powerpoint on “The RTI Project” for full disclosure of goals and member expectations to ensure that your team can commit to what this project entails
- Complete the application process by June 22, 2011
- Send your completed application via email or fax to
  - Contact: Nicole Bucka ([nbucka@nric-ri.org](mailto:nbucka@nric-ri.org))
  - Fax: 401-333-3572

# Selection is based on these criteria:

- **Commitment** to the vision of Response to Intervention and the vision of the RTI Project (Commitment, Collaboration, and Leadership)
- **Support** from district and school building leadership, as well as teachers, to not only develop capacity, but to emphasize the need for sustainability
- **Outstanding Leaders** who seek opportunities, have strong views, but are open-minded
- **Potential** for leadership, both in this group and across the state
- **Commitment** to the norms and values of this group: active learning, shared responsibility, collaboration, data-based decision making,